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May 17, 2021

Latest News

Recorded Town Hall Available on Federal Guidelines for Recovery Funding

If you missed PSATS' Virtual Town Hall on "The American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update," a recorded version is now available online. PSATS and Zelenkofske Axelrod staff discussed the ins and outs of the new U.S. Treasury Interim Final Rule for the plan, how it will affect township expenditures of these funds, and what to expect from reporting requirements. [Click here](#) to learn or to view the Town Hall.

PSATS Objects to IRRC on Final DEP Rate Increases

PSATS submitted comments to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) on a final-form regulation regarding Water Quality Management and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit application and annual fees. The comments expressed concern that the fees were too high and would create an additional annual burden of \$1.7 million on municipal governments. Instead, PSATS is asking the legislature to provide the necessary funding instead of allowing DEP to increase the costs for municipal governments. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

Previously Announced Larger Gathering Limits Now in Effect in Pennsylvania

The Wolf Administration has increased the size of indoor and outdoor gatherings, which is now in effect. Indoor limits increased from 25% to 50% of capacity, and outdoor events increased from 50% to 75% of capacity. Masking is still required for those who are not vaccinated. [Click here](#) for the order.

Assuming the Governor's Disaster Declaration is extended again, for the 5th time, on May 24, [all mitigation orders](#) except for the masking order will be lifted on Monday, May 31, at 12:01 a.m. The masking order will be lifted when 70% of eligible Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated.

Pa. COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths Continue to Decrease

COVID case counts decreased for the fourth week in a row in Pennsylvania, with 12,844 new cases of COVID-19 reported this week, 29% less than last week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,185,132. Across the state, seven counties saw their weekly cases increase (*compared to 20 last week*), while 58 counties saw decreases (*compared to 46 last week*), and two counties saw no change (*compared to one last week*). Pennsylvania dropped to the ninth highest growth in cases per 100,000, with Colorado, Michigan, and Maine making up the top three.

For the fourth week in a row, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has decreased from 1,924 to 1,499, a 22% decrease. 330 of these patients are in an ICU, down from 427 the prior week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased from 242 to 228.

Deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania decreased for the second week. 217 deaths were reported this week, 22% less than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 26,749.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate has decreased for the fourth week in a row, from 6.6% to 5.3%. 14 counties now have rates less than 5% (*up from nine last week*), 46 counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*down from 48 last week*), and seven counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*down from 10 last week*). Click here for more county-specific information.

National Public Works Week May 16-22

This week is National Public Works Week! Township public works departments maintain critical infrastructure for their communities and are there in all weather conditions to make sure our roads are safe and that water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure is sound.

Conference Virtual Workshops Week 4

Still can't get enough of PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop series? Here's what is coming up for week 4! To view the full list of workshops and to register, go to <https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference>.

The banner features a dark background with a vibrant display of colorful fireworks in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. On the left, there is a logo for the '2021 Educational Conference' with the years '1921-2021' below it. In the center, the text 'Virtual Conference Workshops' is written in a large, bold, yellow font, with 'May 17-21, 2021' in white below it. On the right, there is an illustration of a virtual classroom with a green chalkboard, several small chairs, and a laptop screen in the background.

2021
Educational
Conference
1921-2021

Virtual Conference Workshops

May 17-21, 2021

May 17, 2021:

- Rx for Disaster: The Effects of COVID-19 on the EMS System @ 1:30 p.m.
- Stormwater Mapping Done Easy and with Purpose: Conewago Twp. Tells How @ 3 p.m.

May 18, 2021:

- MS4 Permit Holders: The Roles and Responsibilities for BMPs @ 9:30 a.m.
- Considering a Stormwater Fee? Learn from Township Leaders Who Already Did @ 11 a.m.

May 19, 2021:

- MS4 Municipal Partnerships @ 9 a.m.
- PennDOT RoadMaP Program @ 10:30 a.m.
- 2021 Employment and Labor Law Potpourri @ 1:30 p.m.
- Labor Contract Negotiation and Arbitration in the New Normal @ 3 p.m.

May 20, 2021:

- Social Media Tips and Guidelines for Municipal Government @ 9:30 a.m.
- It's Not Just a Chip Seal! @ 11 a.m.
- Forest Management and Timber Harvesting @ 1:30 p.m.
- Case Studies in Code Enforcement @ 3 p.m.

May 21, 2021:

- The ABCs of Liquid Fuels Tax Funds @ 9 a.m.

**To register for these workshops go to
learn.psats.org/virtual-conference**

On This Day in History.....

On May 17, 1954, The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules on the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* determining that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

[Click here](#) for Saturday's *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety. Click on the title of the class for more information and to register.

[Webinar - The Biggest Misconceptions about Public Sector Labor Law - 5/19/21](#)

In this webinar, Ryan Cassidy and Scott Blissman of Eckert Seamans will review some of the biggest sources of confusion and frustration for municipalities when handling labor and HR issues.



[Webinar - Planning for Land Use and Freight - 5/26/21](#)

With e-commerce generating more distribution and fulfillment centers and delivery to nearly every property, the scope and importance of planning for land use and freight has greatly expanded.



[Webinar - Row, Row, Row Your Boat: A Guide to Floodplain Management - 6/2/21](#)

This webinar, presented by John Luciani of FirstCapital Engineering, Inc., will address the continuous improvement processes that need to be performed and how to address floodplain ordinance changes.



**Webinar - Your Personal Financial Foundation - 3
Session Series 6/7/21, 7/12/21 & 8/9/21**

This webinar will provide strategies that can work for you. Learn how to find a budgeting tool you like, integrate savings into your budget, maximize your retirement savings, and borrow responsibly.



**Webinar - Get on Point with 3D Laser Scanning in
Your Municipalities - 6/9/21**

This webinar will explore the 3D Laser Scanner equipment and software, application usages, and the advantages of this digital surveying technology method.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025